Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 12

The End

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raws > Ishitori
translator > Den
cleaner > Kit
typesetter > Kat
qc > Ishitori

CHAPTER 12: TRIAL SEASON

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, CHAGUM?

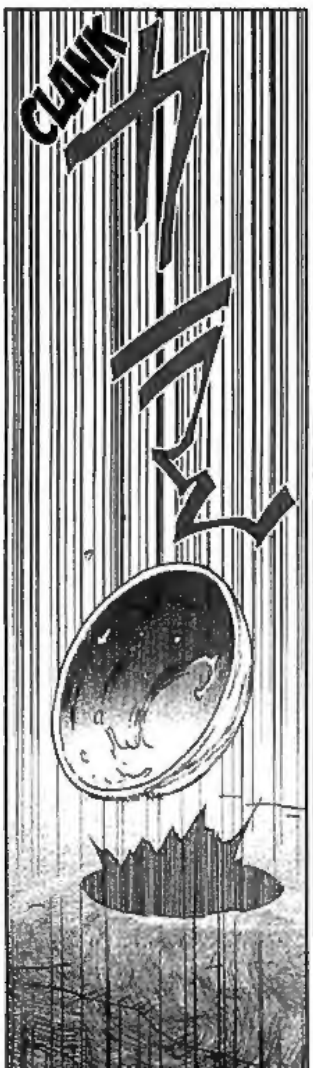
KSHHHHH

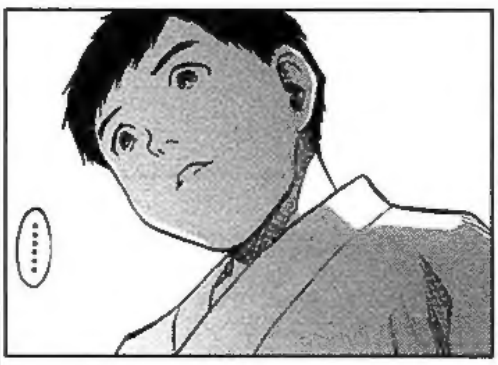
I'M THIRSTY,
AND EVERY-THING FEELS DARK...

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR A LONG TIME. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU GO OUT AND GET SOME FRESH AIR.

I'LL CLEAN UP HERE. HAND ME THE BOWL.

YEAH.


CLANK
カラン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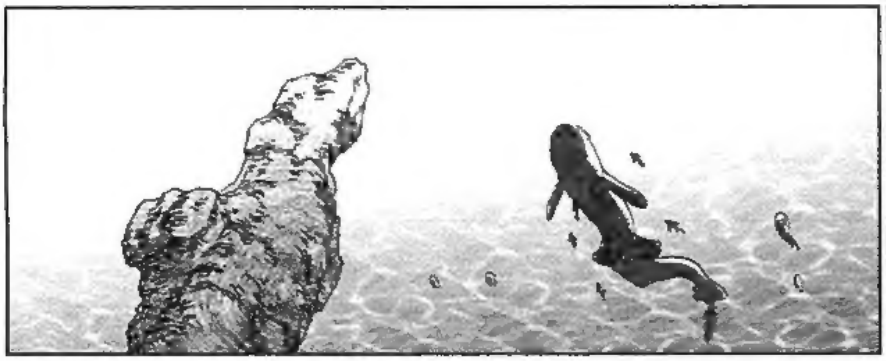
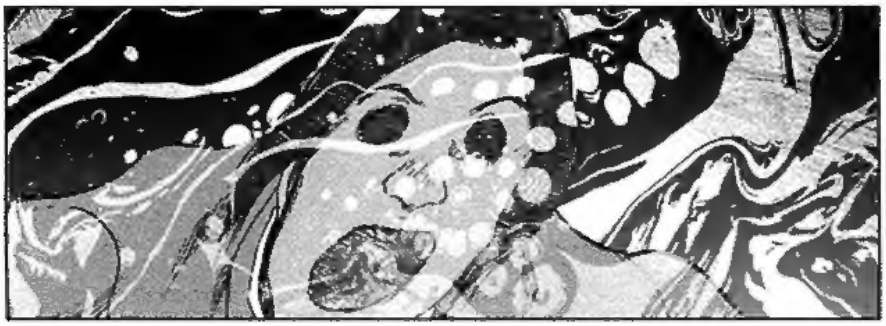
CHAGUM?

WHAT'S WRONG?! CHAGUM!!

CHAGUM !!

GACK!





BALSA!!!!

HUFF

!

CONCENTRATE YOUR ENERGY IN YOUR CORE. DON'T LET CHAGUM PULL YOU IN! YOU'RE THE PILLAR THAT CAN DRAW HIM BACK!

I'M GOING TO FALL! I'M GOING TO FALL!! HELP!!

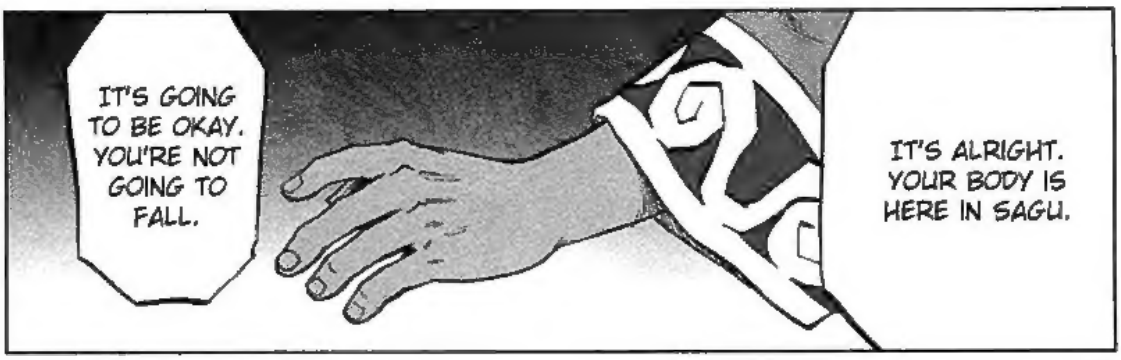
SQUEEZE

CHAGUM!!!

THIS IS...
THERE'S NO GROUND BENEATH ME!!

!!

YOU ARE SEEING NAYUG.
CALM DOWN. IT'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.


IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FALL.
IT'S ALRIGHT. YOUR BODY IS HERE IN SAGU.

WHAP!

CHAGUM. CALM YOUR HEART AND FEEL BALSA'S ARMS AROUND YOU.
USE HER BODY AS A GUIDE TO FEEL YOURS. FEEL THE GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET.

TA... TANDA! I CAN FEEL THE GROUND!
HOW IS IT? YOU FEEL IT, RIGHT? THE HARD GROUND...

THE CAVE WHERE YOU SPENT THE WHOLE WINTER...
THAT'S RIGHT... TAKE YOUR MIND BACK HERE...

YES
CAN YOU SEE ME, CHAGUM?

Huff
Huff

WHEW ...

THANKFULLY BALSA WAS RIGHT BESIDE YOU.
NOW EVERY-THING'S ALRIGHT.

CHAGUM WAS SAVED BECAUSE HE WAS ABLE TO CLING TO YOU AS HIS PILLAR.
YOU ALWAYS CONFRONT DANGER SO QUICKLY.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD SCREAM LIKE THAT. YOU WOULD'VE MADE A GREAT SOLDIER IF YOU HAD TRIED.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SETTLE DOWN WHEN YOU SCREAMED AT ME.

……

SO WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE WILL BE HAPPENING MORE FREQUENTLY FROM NOW ON.
THE EGG HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY.

.....

HOW IS THAT EASY ...?

IT'S JUST LIKE SWIMMING. ONCE YOU REMEMBER HOW TO DO IT, IT'S EASY.
SO YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER TO NOT BE SCARED AND TO CALM YOUR MIND.

BAM!
DAMN THAT EGG! MESSING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES!!

HAVE TO LIVE INSIDE MY BODY?!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DIE LIKE THIS! WHY DOES THIS EGG...
FSHHH

I HATE THIS! I HATE THIS! I HATE THIS!
.....

BAM
BAM
DAMN IT!! DAMN IT!!

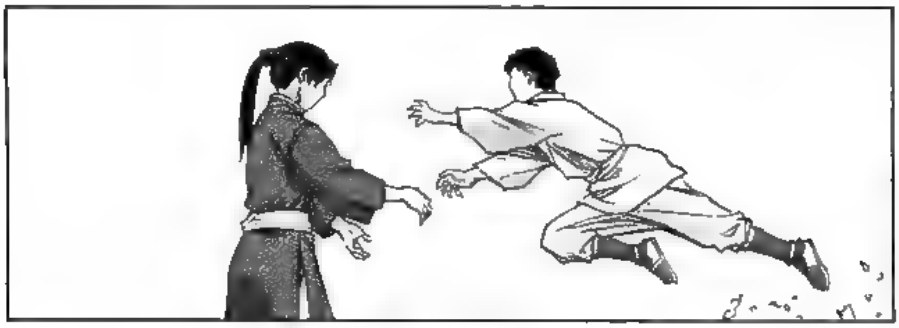
THUD

!
FWIP

WHAP
!!

GAAAAAAAH!

FWIP
GSHHHH

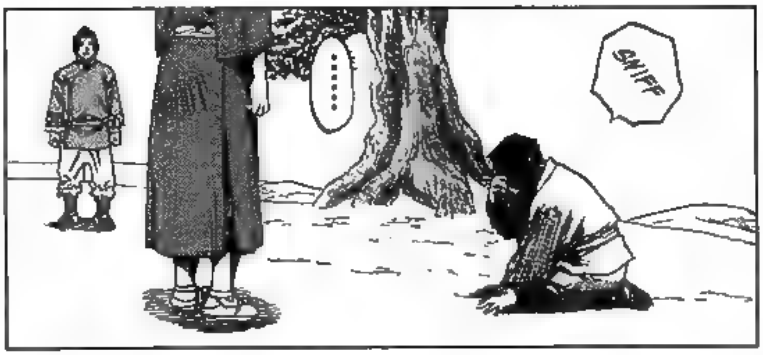


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

UH...
UHHH...

UH...

!


.....
SNIFF

.....

COME TO
THINK OF IT...

THE SAME THING HAPPENED WHEN BALSA WAS YOUNG. JUST LIKE CHAGUM, SHE KEPT STRIKING OUT IN A BLIND RAGE...

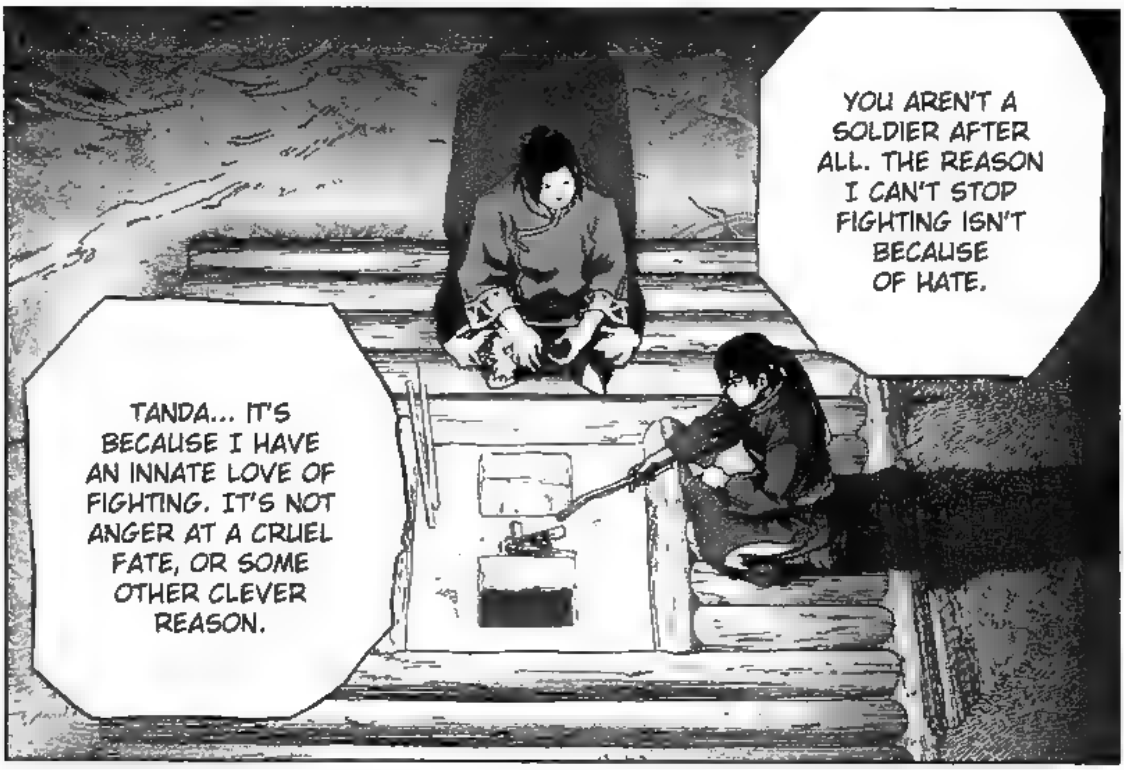
IN ANGER AT HAVING TO BE BURDENED WITH A CRUEL FATE...

COULD THIS BE THE REASON WHY BALSA STILL CAN'T STOP FIGHTING...? WHY SHE CAN'T BREAK AWAY FROM BLOODSHED? BECAUSE THE HATE IS STILL SIMMERING DEEP WITHIN HER HEART?

THAT ANGER ...
HMMM... SO YOU REMEMBERED IT TOO, HUH?

BUT IT WAS ONLY NOW WHEN I WAS FIGHTING CHAGUM THAT I UNDERSTOOD HOW JIGURO FELT BACK THEN.

IT'S TRUE... IT'S STILL SMOLDERING WITHIN ME, LIKE THIS FIRE.

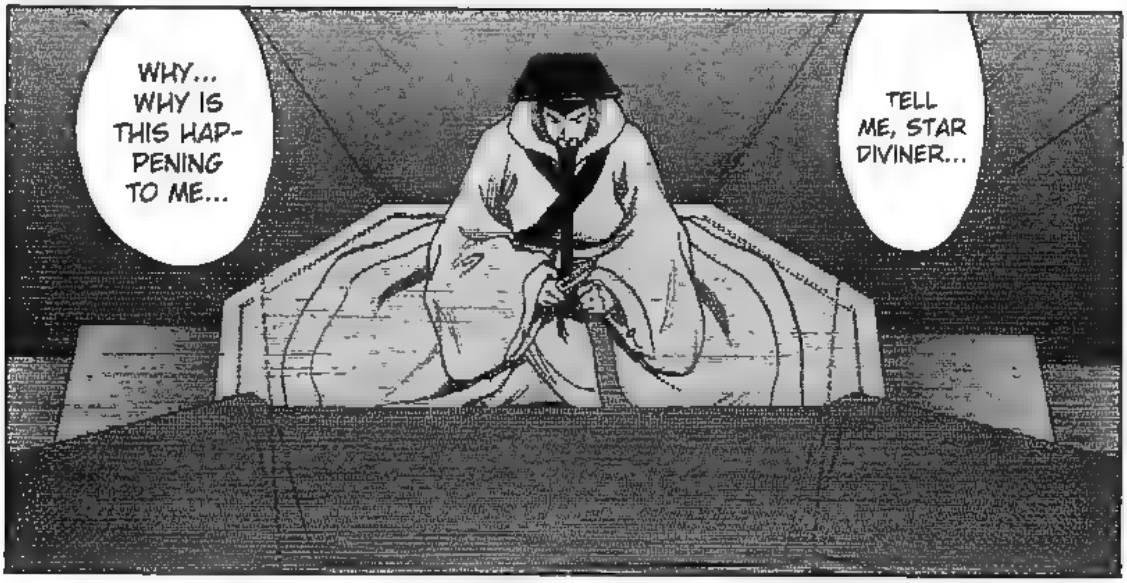

YOU AREN'T A SOLDIER AFTER ALL. THE REASON I CAN'T STOP FIGHTING ISN'T BECAUSE OF HATE.
TANDA... IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE AN INNATE LOVE OF FIGHTING. IT'S NOT ANGER AT A CRUEL FATE, OR SOME OTHER CLEVER REASON.

I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM A FIGHTING COCK, MY FEATHERS RUFFLED AND CONTINUING TO FIGHT...
.....

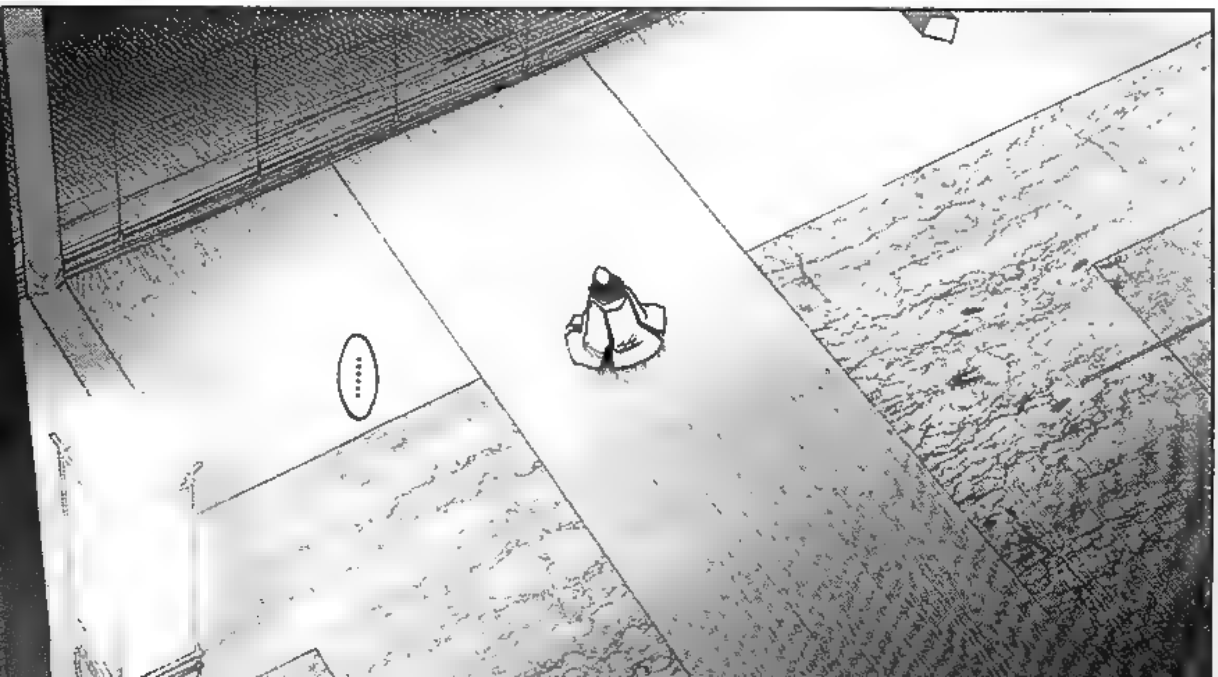
WHY...
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE CURSED LIKE THIS...

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, WE HAVE BEEN GETTING SIGNS OF A DROUGHT...
MY FIRST SON IS ILL, AND MY SECOND IS POSSESSED BY THE WATER SPIRIT. EVEN MY HUNTERS ARE USELESS.

.....


WHY... WHY IS THIS HAP-PENING TO ME...
TELL ME, STAR DIVINER...

ANSWER ME!!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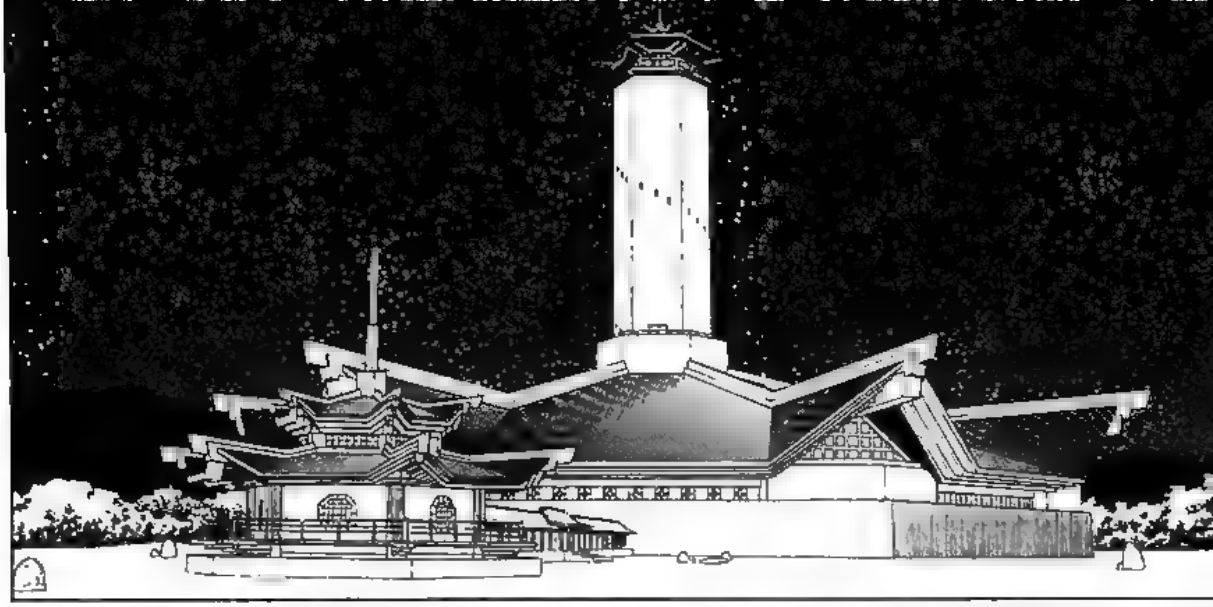


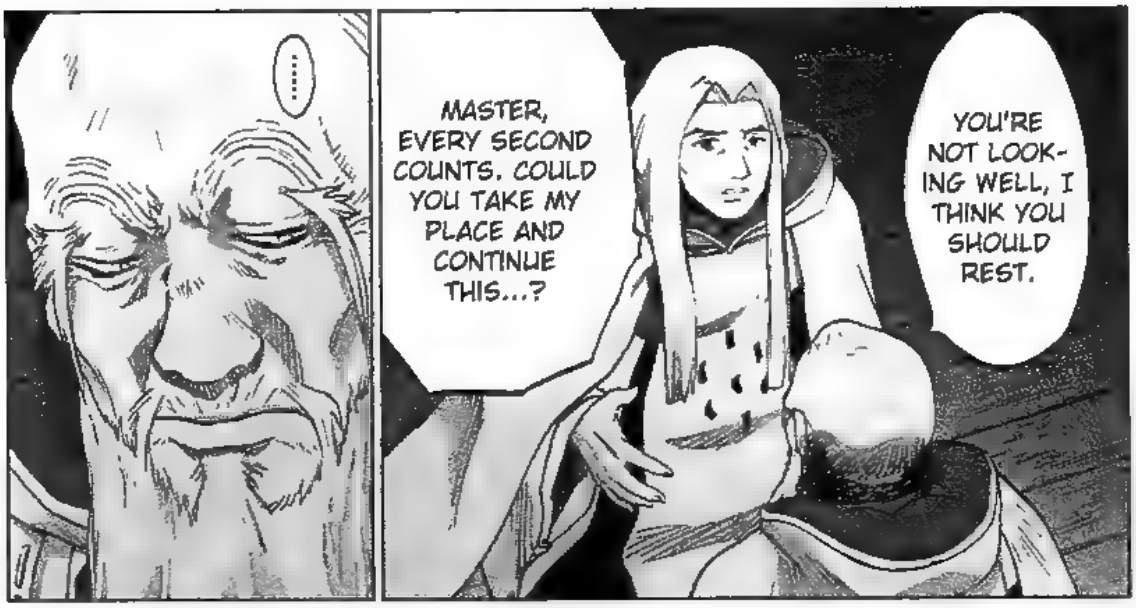
ONCE NANAI GOT WORD ABOUT THE DROUGHT, HE WENT TO WHERE THE YAKU WERE... SEPARATE FROM THE REST OF THE CITY. HE MET WITH THE BOY WHO CARRIED THE EGG AND THE PEOPLE OF YAKU WHO PROTECTED IT.

THE NYUNGA RO IM GROWS AS SOON AS WINTER ENDS. FOLLOWED BY THE CHANGES IN THE PERSON HARBORING THE EGG...
AND THE YAKU SAID... IT IS THE ONE TIME EVERY HUNDRED YEARS THAT HUMANS CAN HELP NATURE.

AT THE SAME TIME IN NAYUG, THE LA LUNGA, THE EGG EATER,
PURSUES THE NYUNGA RO IM JUST LIKE A SNAKE PURSUING A BIRD EGG.
AND THEN, DURING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE...
.....

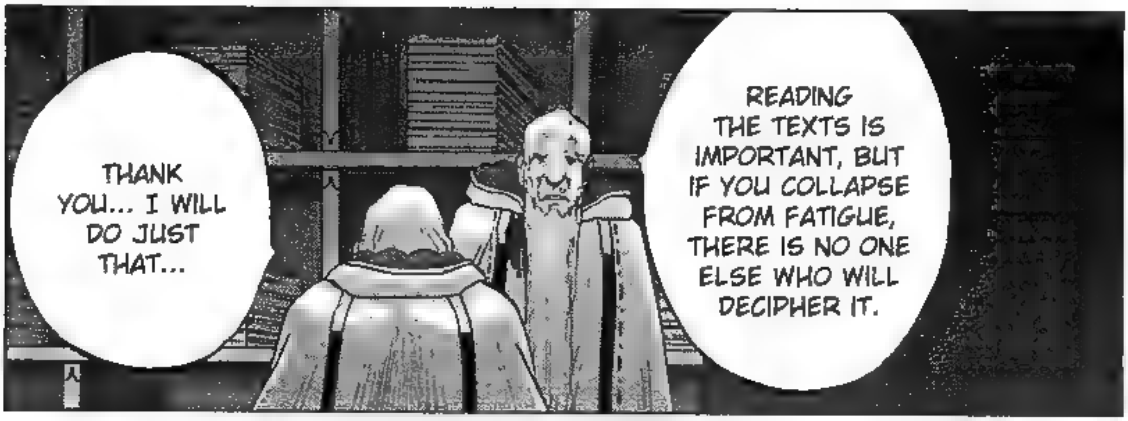
THE CICADAS HAVE APPEARED... THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IS IN 20 DAYS!!
WAIT, WHAT MONTH IS IT NOW?!
!!
I HAVE TO REMEMBER!! WHAT DAY IS IT?!
HAS IT ALREADY EATEN THE EGG?!
OH NO...
!!

WE HAVE TO INFORM THE HUNTERS SO THEY CAN GET THERE QUICKLY. YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
I SEE... YOU'VE DECIPHERED A LOT, SHUGA!

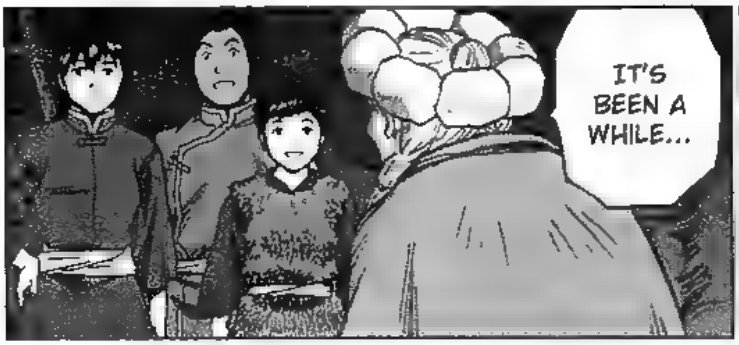

.....
MASTER, EVERY SECOND COUNTS. COULD YOU TAKE MY PLACE AND CONTINUE THIS...?
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING WELL, I THINK YOU SHOULD REST.

I'VE BEEN WITHOUT SLEEP OR REST NURSING THE CROWN PRINCE BACK TO HEALTH.
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

YOU'RE RIGHT. FORGIVE ME FOR BEING UNREASONABLE.


THANK YOU... I WILL DO JUST THAT...
READING THE TEXTS IS IMPORTANT, BUT IF YOU COLLAPSE FROM FATIGUE, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE WHO WILL DECIPHER IT.

Thud
SHUGA!!

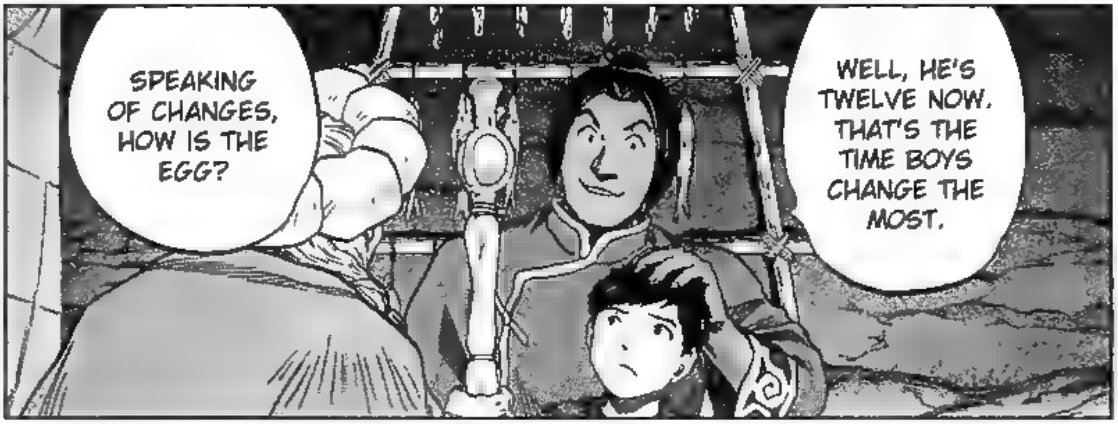

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

TORO-GAI!

HUH? HAVE YOU SHRUNK, TOROGAI?

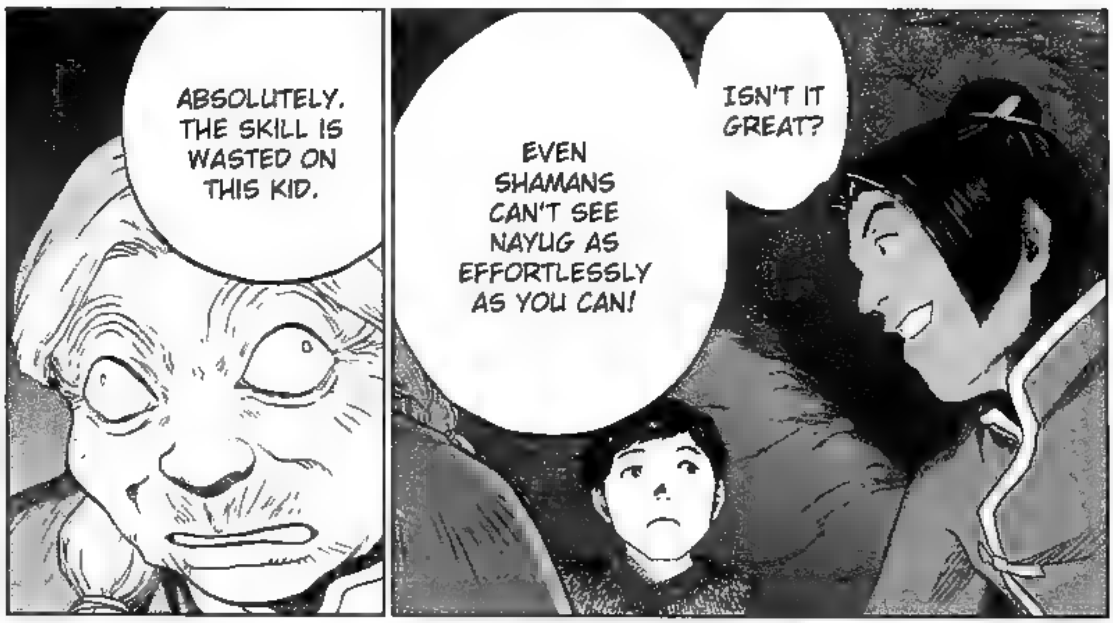
YOU JUST GOT TALLER.
YOU IDIOT! YOU THINK I CAN GET ANY SMALLER THAN THIS?!

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DID GROW TALLER...


SPEAKING OF CHANGES, HOW IS THE EGG?
WELL, HE'S TWELVE NOW. THAT'S THE TIME BOYS CHANGE THE MOST.

EVERY-THING HAS BEEN STABLE RECENTLY. HE HASN'T BEEN HOLED UP IN BED, EITHER.
HMM...

CHAGUM CAN NOW SEE NAYUG AT WILL.
OHH...
THAT'S GREAT PROG-RESS.


ISN'T IT GREAT?
EVEN SHAMANS CAN'T SEE NAYUG AS EFFORTLESSLY AS YOU CAN!
ABSOLUTELY. THE SKILL IS WASTED ON THIS KID.

BY THE WAY...
NOT AT ALL.
SO WHEN YOU'RE SEEING NAYUG, DO YOU FEEL THE LA LUNGA'S PRESENCE ANYWHERE?
IT'S GOING TO BE MIDSUMMER SOON, AND CHAGUM CAN NOW MOVE FREELY.
I WAS EXPECTING THE LA LUNGA TO APPEAR SOON, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT ANY-WHERE...
YEAH... BUT IT'D BE EVEN WORSE IF THERE WAS, RIGHT?

HMM ...
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S CALLING ME...
RECENTLY, WHEN I'M ASLEEP,

BUT THIS TIME I FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO GO...
IT'S THAT SAME FEELING I HAD BEFORE, WHEN I WANTED TO GO BACK HOME.

THE EGG, THE NYUNGA RO IM, IS LEADING HIM ON...

LIKE I'M BEING PULLED BY AN INVISIBLE THREAD.

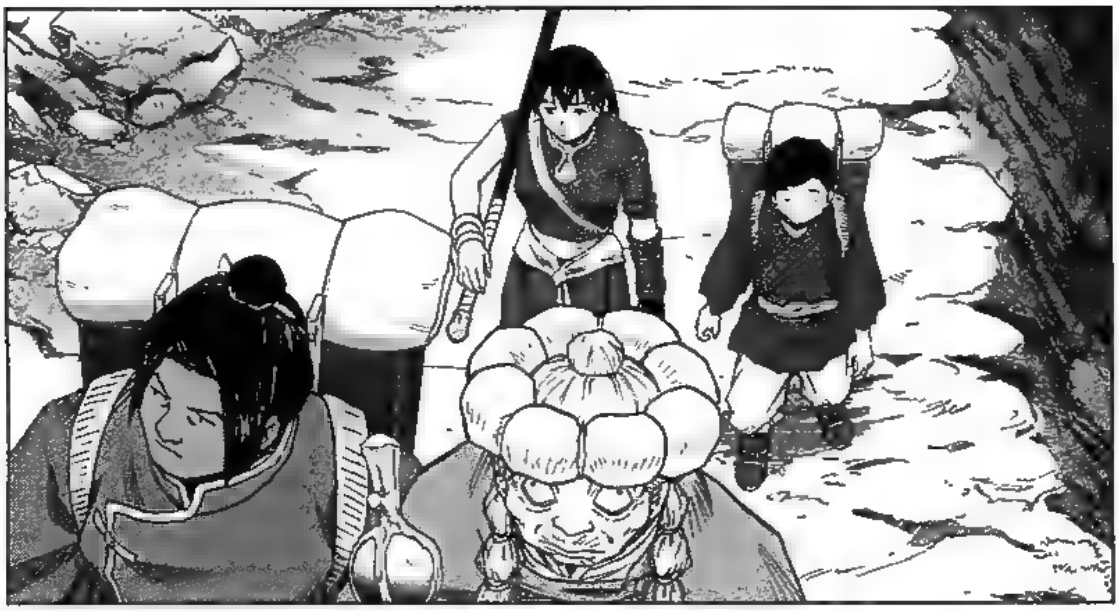
THAT'S IT!

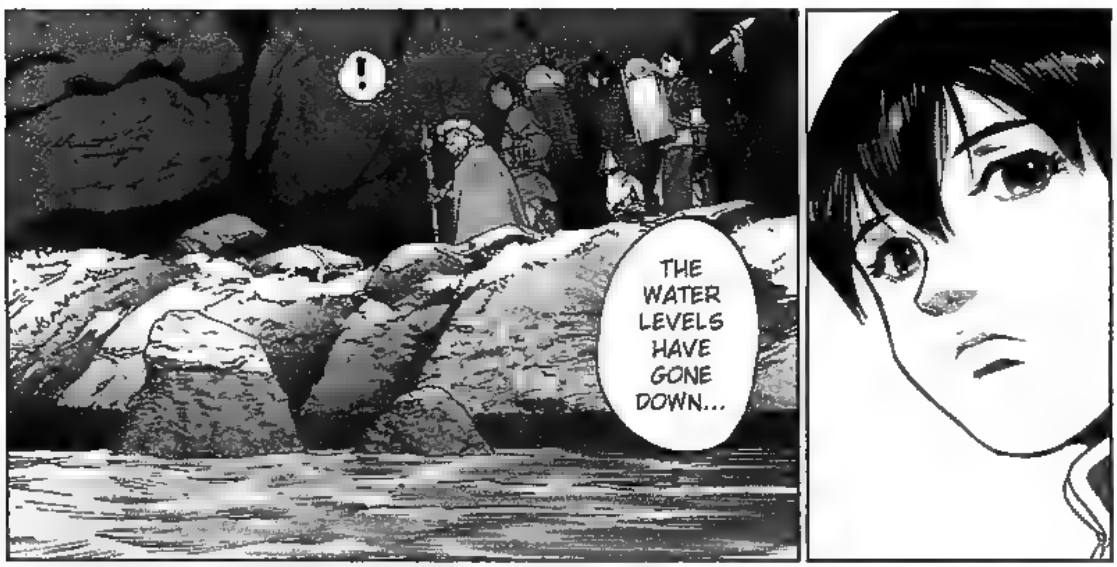
FWIP
SO WHERE DOES THE EGG WANT TO GO?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING IT HAS TO DO BEFORE HEADING FOR THE SEA.
I WAS EXPECTING THE SEA, BUT THAT'S A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.
HM?
.....
WE'LL BE TRAVELLING WITH THE EGG!
BALSA, PREPARE FOR A JOURNEY!!

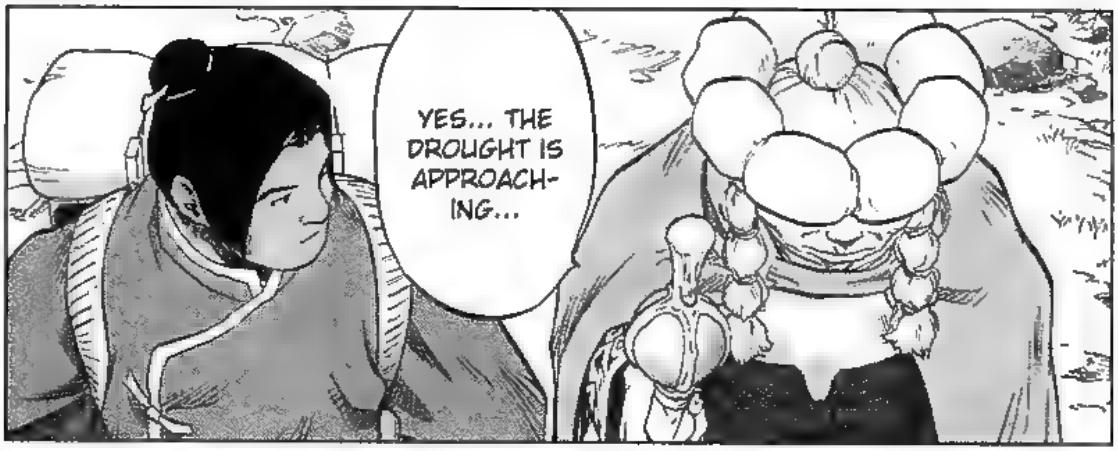
WHEN THIS IS OVER, AND THE EGG HAS HATCHED SAFELY...
HM?
HEY, BALSA...

WELL... WE CAN DO THAT...
CAN I COME BACK HERE AND LIVE WITH YOU AND TANDA?
.....

COME ON, LET'S GO.
OKAY.




!
THE WATER LEVELS HAVE GONE DOWN...


YES... THE DROUGHT IS APPROACH-ING...

!

.....

AH... SORRY. IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL, I'M GETTING DISTRACTED...

CHAGUM... YOU'RE LOOK-ING AT NAYUG AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE GOING TO FALL INTO THE WATER IF YOU DON'T WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

ARE YOU TIRED? DO YOU WANT TO REST?
NO, I'M ALRIGHT.

WE HAVE TO GET TO THE BLUE POND BY NOON, SO IF YOU CAN BEAR IT UNTIL THEN...

.....

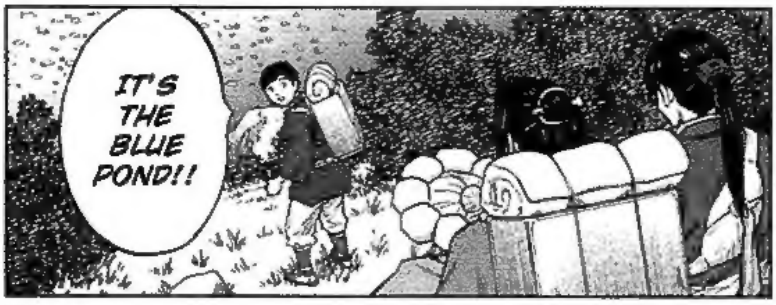
THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE SHIGU SALUA IS BLOOMING.
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT ...
THE SHIGU SALUA?
!

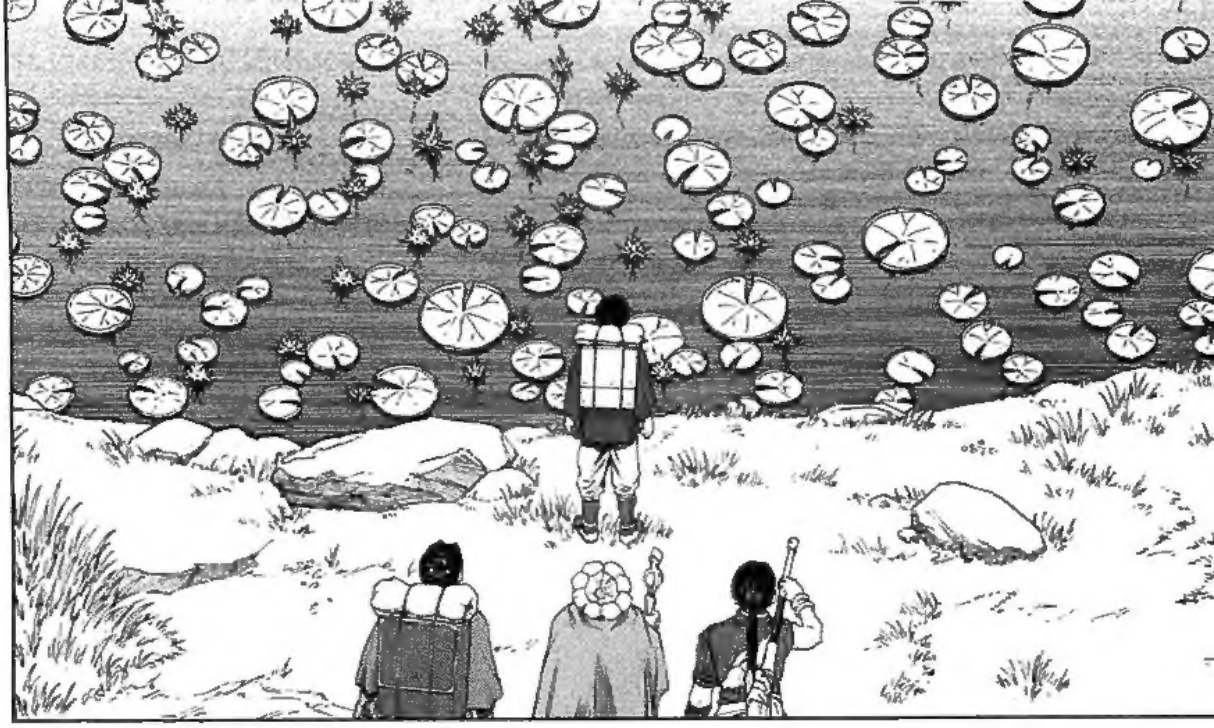
WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?

DAMN...
I ALMOST
REMEMBERED
SOMETHING...

.....

!
STEP
STEP


IT'S
THE
BLUE
POND!!

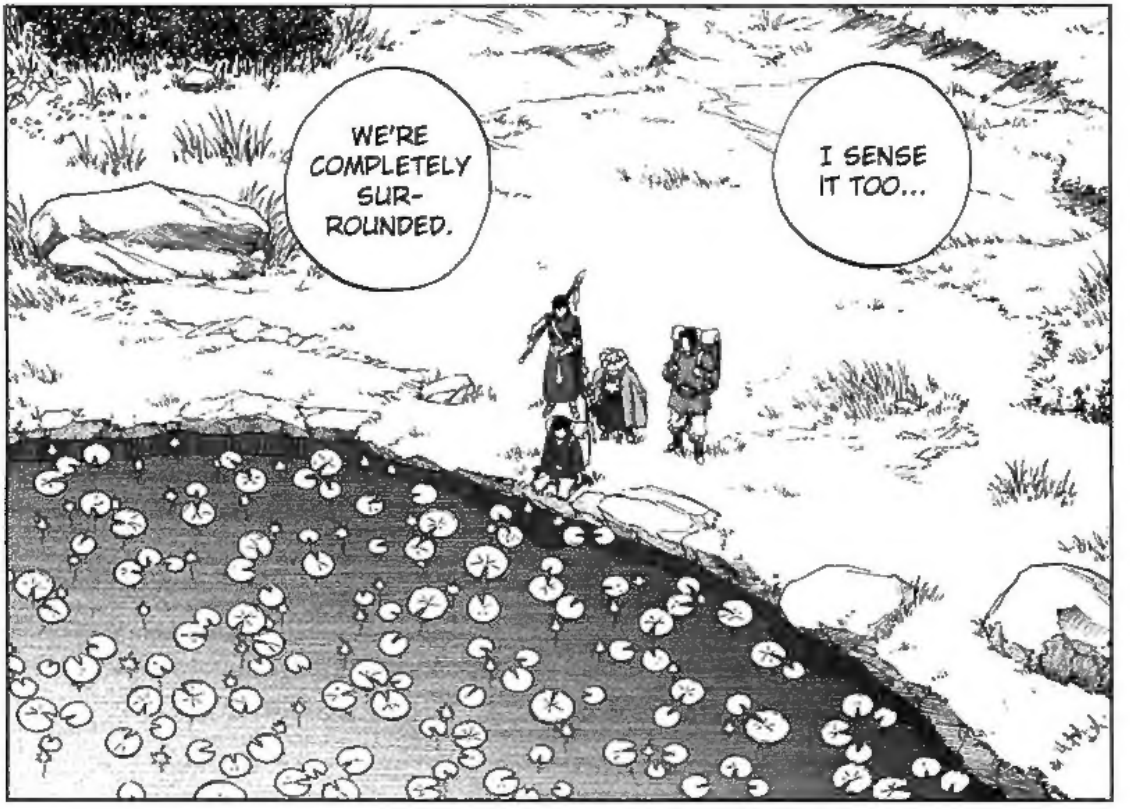


THIS IS IT!!
THIS SCENT...

THIS IS THE SAME SCENT I SMELLED FROM WHEN CHAGUM WAS COVERED IN BLUE LIGHT IN TOUYA'S HUT. THE SCENT OF THE SHIGU SALUA...
!!
!
CHOMP
HMM...
munch munch
BADUMP!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU...
CHAGUM ...

CLENCH

THIS ISN'T GOOD, BALSA...


WE'RE COMPLETELY SUR-ROUNDED.
I SENSE IT TOO...